

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner required restriction of claims to one of the following: Invention I, claims 1, 3-5, and 7-11; or Invention II, claims 2 and 6. Applicants hereby elect the claims (claims 1, 3-5, and 7-11) in Invention I with traverse.

The Examiner is requested to reconsider the restriction, as a search of classes and subclasses for the claims of Invention I would likely include a search of the classes and subclasses for the claims of Invention II. For instance, both claims 1 and 2 recite the subject matter of "a switching unit to unite different sub-buses into a more extensive bus". Furthermore, claim 7 recites the subject matter of "a power management unit to minimize energy consumption of the bus structure", while claim 2 recites the subject matter of "setting the supply voltage of a sub-bus to the lower one of said two levels if the data traffic rate of the sub-bus is smaller than a certain value". It is likely that a search of classes and subclasses for a power management unit would include a search of the classes and subclasses for setting a supply voltage of a sub-bus. Consequently, it is not a serious burden to the Examiner to examine the claims of both Inventions I and II. Additionally, as there are only two claims in Invention II, there is not a serious burden to the Examiner to examine both Inventions I and II.

As stated in M.P.E.P. §803:

If the search and examination of all the claims in an application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine them on the merits, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions.


M.P.E.P. §803. It is respectfully submitted that there would be no serious burden on the Examiner to examine the claims of both Inventions I and II and therefore Applicants respectfully request the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

Regardless, Applicants elect the claims of Invention 1, claims 1, 3-5, and 7-11.

S.N. 10/735,052
Art Unit: 2111

Favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted:



Robert J. Mauri
Reg. No.: 41,180

5/23/06
Date

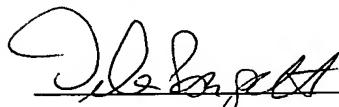
Customer No.: 29683

HARRINGTON & SMITH, LLP
4 Research Drive
Shelton, CT 06484-6212

Telephone: (203)925-9400
Facsimile: (203)944-0245
email: rmauri@hspatent.com

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Name of Person Making Deposit

May 23, 2006
Date